

**Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**

**Humanities and Social Sciences**

**ENG122: Introduction to Linguistics**

**Semester: 2020-21-I**

**Instructor 1 (PART A): Usha Udaar (UU); Tutor 1: Usha Udaar (September 1 – October 11, 2020)**

**Instructor 2 (PART B): Achla M. Raina (AMR); Tutor 2: Achla M. Raina (October 19 – November 30, 2020)**

**October 15, 2020**

### **First Course Handout (PART B Updated)**

#### **Course Objective:**

The course is an introduction to the field of linguistics. The objective of the course is to familiarize students with internal structure of language and to sensitize them to the issues of language use.

#### **Course Instruction:**

1. The course will be taught by two instructors as indicated above.
2. All instruction and assessment will be in the online mode and students will attend classes remotely.
3. The course will be taught in the Flipped Mode: at the beginning of the week, lecture material for the week will be uploaded on an online platform.
4. A live Discussion Hour will be conducted once a week on **Mondays at 8:00-9:00am** over a video-conferencing platform.
5. A live tutorial will be held once a week on **Thursdays at 8:00-9:00am**.

#### **Course Contents:**

##### **PART A (UU)**

1. Introduction to Linguistics & areas of study, Verbal and non-verbal communication, Sign language, Human & non-human communication. [3 lectures]
2. Design features of Language, Language Myths, Prescriptive and Descriptive Grammar, Language as a rule governed system. [3 lectures]
3. Introduction to phonetics, classification of sounds- vowels and consonants, phonemes and allophones, syllable structure. [3 lectures]
4. Introduction to morphology, concept of morphemes and allomorphs, word formation processes. [4 lectures]
5. Language at the level of sentence, phrases and its types, Word order, case and agreement, question formation and types of interrogation, [3 lectures]
6. Language at the level of meaning, concept of ambiguity, literal vs. non literal [2 lectures]

### **Selected Readings:**

V. Fromkin, R. Rodman, & N. Hyams : An Introduction to Language : Wadsworth Engage Learning : USA : 2011 : 0-1 5-50848 I-X

S. Pinker : The Language Instinct : Penguin Books : UK : 1994 : 0-688-12141-1

D. Crystal : A Little Book of Language : Yale University Press : London : 2010 : 978-0300155334

N. Chomsky : Knowledge of Language : Its Nature, Origin and Use : Praeger : New York : 1986 : 978-0275917616

### **Evaluation Components:**

- |                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Mid Semester Term Paper | : 50% |
| 2. Assignments             | : 40% |
| 3. Participation           | : 10% |

### **Policies:**

Use of unfair means, including plagiarism from online resources, copying and cheating will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

The assignments should be submitted by deadlines. Late submissions will not be accepted.

### **Online Platforms:**

For Hosting Lectures: mooKIT/HelloIITK

For Discussion and Tutorial Hours: Microsoft Teams

### **How to reach UU:**

**Email:** [ushaudaar@iitk.ac.in](mailto:ushaudaar@iitk.ac.in)

## PART B (AMR)

### Topics to be covered in the available 18 lectures (7 Discussion Hours) + 6 Tutorials:

1. What it means to *know* a language: the languaging potential [1 Lecture]
2. Understanding language: the problem of meaning making [1 Lecture]
3. More on understanding language: reference, combinatoriality and cognitive underpinnings [2 Lectures]
4. Language in context: lists and procedures in context [1 Lecture]
5. Linguistic Variation: linguistic prejudice and inequality, standardization and post-standardization, language disadvantage in education, atypical populations [4 Lectures]
6. Language and identity: language choice and linguistic identities [1 Lecture]
7. Language and culture: cross-linguistic choices, reference as re-naming, syntactic choices, and usage conventions, translatability across cultures [4 lectures]
8. Language and cognition: categorization; linguistic relativism, untranslatables, language reform, empirical issues in linguistic relativism; literary representation of linguistic determinism, post truth social order [5 lectures]

### Selected Extracts from the following books:

1. Deutscher, Guy. 2010: The language glass: Why the world looks different in other languages.
2. Lakoff and Johnson. 2003: The metaphors we live by.
3. George Orwell, 1948: Nineteen eighty four

### Supplementary Material

1. **Linguistics as a window to understanding the brain** Steven Pinker  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-B\\_ONJIEcE&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-B_ONJIEcE&t=2s)
2. **Language Variation** Martin Hilpert:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYlyMCoIAZY>
3. **Language and Culture** Jason Bres:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qB4xsh5Y8R4>
4. **Language and Culture- Metaphors We Live By** George Lakoff:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7\\_cexWKE7sE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_cexWKE7sE)
5. **Language and Culture- Metaphors We Live By** Martin Hilpert:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROBYLpwSM6E>
6. **Untranslatables across Cultures** David Robson:  
<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170126-the-untranslatable-emotions-you-never-knew-you-had>
7. **Language and Cognition** Lera Boroditsky:  
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=lera+boroditsky+you+tube&docid=607986052907993772&mid=D8B30A552E621B08AF76D8B30A552E621B08AF76&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

**Evaluation Components:**

Assignment 1: 20 Marks  
Assignment 2: 20 Marks  
Assignment 3: 20 Marks  
Assignment 4: 40 Marks

**Policies:**

- Use of available resources without acknowledgement, and other kinds of unfair practices including collaboration in Assignments are seriously discouraged.
- Assignments are to be submitted by the deadline.

**Online Platforms:**

- Lecture Delivery Platform: HelloIITK
- Platform for Discussion and Tutorial: Zoom

**How to reach AMR:**

Email: [achla@iitk.ac.in](mailto:achla@iitk.ac.in)

A voluntary WhatsApp Group for instant communication; Phone: 9839531976

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